

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14589

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: IMPRISONED BAPTIST LEADER GEORGIY VINS

1. NADEZHDA IVANOVNA VINS, WIFE OF IMPRISONED
REFORM BAPTIST LEADER GEORGIY VINS, TELEPHONED THE
ADVANCE PARTY IN KIEV JUNE 21 TO SAY SHE HAS JUST
LEARNED HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN "CRUELLY" BEATEN ON
JUNE 10 AND SUBSEQUENTLY PLACED IN AN UNDERGROUND
ISOLATION CELL. FOLLOWING THIS, HER HUSBAND
REPORTEDLY DECLARED A HUNGER STRIKE ON JUNE 12.

2. MRS. VINS WAS CONSIDERABLY SHAKEN BY THIS NEWS.
SHE DID NOT KNOW THE REASON FOR THE BEATING.

3. IN A MEETING JUNE 20 WITH OLIN ROBISON, PRESIDENT
OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE AND CHAIRMAN OF ICA ADVISORY
COMMISSION, AND CHARLES TRENTAM, PASTOR OF FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH OF WASHINGTON, MRS. VINS DESCRIBED
AS UNSUCCESSFUL HER RECENT CONVERSATION WITH
OFFICIALS OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM AND
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PLEA FOR THE EARLY RELEASE OF HER SON AND HUSBAND.

4. PRESIDUM REPRESENTATIVES TOLD MRS. VINS HER
HUSBAND MUST ADMIT HIS GUILT BEFORE THEY WOULD
CONSIDER EARLY RELEASE. HER HUSBAND HAD COMMITTED
NO CRIME, MRS. VINS SAID, AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR HIM TO ADMIT GUILT. MRS. VINS PROPOSED THAT

HER HUSBAND BE ALLOWED TO SERVE HIS EXILE PERIOD (FIVE YEARS) ABROAD AND FEELS (UNREALISTICALLY, WE BELIEVE) THAT THIS PROPOSAL MAY BE CONSIDERED. MEANWHILE KIEV OVIR HAS TOLD MRS. VINS SHE CANNOT PRESENT VISAS FOR HER HUSBAND AND SON. THEY MUST DO SO "IN PERSON". MRS. VINS CONFIRMED TO ROBISON AND TRENTAM, BASED ON HER MEETING WITH HIM AT YAKUTSK IN FEBRUARY, THAT HER HUSBAND HAS CONCLUDED HE CANNOT CARRY OUT HIS MINISTRY IN THE SOVIET UNION AND WISHES TO EMIGRATE.

5. IN A JUNE 20 MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN OF UKSSR COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS K. Z. LITVIN, ROBISON AND TRENTAM CONVEYED DEEP CONCERN OF AMERICANS INCLUDING AMERICAN BAPTISTS OVER IMPRISONMENT OF VINS FATHER AND SON AND INABILITY OF FAMILY TO EMIGRATE. LITVIN WAS UNSYMPATHETIC AND UNRESPONSIVE, BUT DID SUGGEST GEORGIY VINS APPEAL TO "COMMITTEE ON CLEMENCY" IN MOSCOW. ROBISON AND TRENTAM EXPECT TO DISCUSS CASE FURTHER WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW. TOON

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